

SP

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/087,896

Examiner

Alex P. Rada

Applicant(s)

SCHNEIDER, RICHARD J.

Art Unit

3713

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to 8/24/05.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-10.
3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.

Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. ☐ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____

XUAN M. THAI
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER

TC3700

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Amendment

In response to the amendment filed August 24, 2005 in which the applicant submits arguments and claims 1-10 are pending in this office action.

Reasons for Allowance

1. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: Applicant provides persuasive arguments to distinguish over the cited prior art. The prior art does not disclose nor teach according to claims 1 and 9 sending a bonus token signal to at least one of the first selected subset of the plurality of gaming machine, storing the bonus token signal at the at least one of the first selected subset of the plurality of gaming machine over the bonus period and initiating a bonus period at only the at least one of the first selected subset of gaming machines responsive to the bonus signal in combination with the rest of the claimed limitations. The cited prior art of Acres discloses a floor controller issuing instructions over a gaming network to individual gaming machines using configuration messages. The Acres reference is silent to what happens to the reconfiguration message originally received. There is no disclosure within Acres that the message itself is stored in memory over the course of the bonus period. Instead, some of the data incorporated within the message is written to memory and changed until the next reconfiguration message is received from the floor controller. Since the gaming machine has already been configured using the data accompanying the message, the message itself is extra once received. The message is similar to a bonus trigger flag, which is received at the gaming machine and triggers a bonus period. Responsive to the trigger, the gaming machine is reconfigured to provide the bonus game and appropriate payouts. But the originally received trigger flag signal, which was received, is not maintained within

Art Unit: 3713

memory over the course of the bonus period. Instead, the flag would most likely be overwritten by other data coming into RAM since the flag itself has operated and is now extra to the continued operation of the machine in the bonus mode. Similarly, the reconfiguration message received under Acres would be unnecessary and accordingly not stored over the course of the bonus period as required as recited in the claims.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Alex P. Rada whose telephone number is 571-272-4452. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Friday, 08:00-16:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Xuan Thai can be reached on 571-272-7147. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Am
APR


XUAN M. THAI
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TC3700